

**I don't always vote
in the TAFF race**



but when I do, I vote for Jim.

TAFF PLATFORM

Jim Mowatt came of age in the fiery fannishness of Leeds and burst upon the scene as Jim Trash at the Sou'wester Eastercon in 1994. Few noticed. He retreated into the shadows like a bewildered ninja. Since then he has made a number of friends, produced fanzines (eg *Pips* and *Beam*) and decided that fandom is a wonderful place to be(eblebear). He has produced a prodigious number of podcasts, and has a great face for radio. Jim followed a woman to Cambridge in 2002. She didn't call the police so he moved in. San Antonio needs to know why.

MOWATT FOR TAFF



I thank my nominators whom I specifically asked because they represent who I am in fandom and who I would like to be:
RANDY BYERS, FRAN DOWD, ROB HANSEN,
CURT PHILLIPS, MARK PLUMMER

[HTTP://JIMFORTAFF.COM](http://jimfortaff.com)

JIM

THE UNIVERSE & EVERYTHING



TINY TAFFZINE ISSUE 1

How Did I get There from Here?



So, you're thinking, "I want to vote in this TAFF race but first I want to know a little more about the candidates."

Jim thinks, "Aha, an excellent opportunity to talk about myself and possibly bag a vote into the bargain." So here goes:

I was born, or so I am told, into the smoking fumes that clouded the industrial heartlands of the North of England in 1964. A thick pall of smoke hung permanently over Leeds, being belched forth from the copper works, brass moulders and other products of the industrial age. I lived in a tiny back-to-back terraced house, choking daily as I edged closer and closer to the final oblivion that claimed so many children of the time. The doctor gave dire warnings that I would be likely to kick the bucket, run down the curtain and join the choir invisible or shuffle off this mortal coil if I were not taken away somewhere warm, nice and sunny. He probably meant the South of France or the Mediterranean but my parents, being of modest means, could manage nothing more than a dash for the edge of the city to what was then a semi-agricultural area known as Tingley (near Morley in the rhubarb

triangle). Despite not being a rhubarb plant or even made of rhubarb I thrived, grew, and left all that choking and potential mortal coil shuffling behind. I left school at the time of the largest unemployment figures in living memory. I bummed around for a while but eventually got a job as a bus driver. I met a girl in a nightclub, got married, had a child, discovered fandom, and got divorced. All pretty standard stuff.

So, you'll notice that I slipped in a mention of fandom there. I met Steve and Jenny Glover either in 1993 or 1994. I think it may have been through a bulletin board I was running called *Chaos*. The internet had not yet taken ahold in the UK and I ran a system on my BBC computer that people could call on a phone line and play games and leave messages upon. I was part of a store-and-forward network called *Fidonet* at that time, and was heavily promoting Science Fiction discussion forums. When I met the Glovers it just so happened that Jenny was editor of *Matrix*, the British Science Fiction Association newsletter. She soon saw that I had been previously unsullied by fanzines and figured I was the perfect person to write a fresh and bright review of them. Mercifully I don't have a copy of that review column now and so don't have to be confronted with my own naivety, but the process was enough to pique my curiosity as regards fanzines and I began LoCing several of them under the name of Jim Trash.

I went to several Glover parties and a couple of friends that I met there (Nesa Sivagnanam and Julie Faith) persuaded me to attend *Sou'Wester*, the UK Eastercon that was being held in Liverpool at a hotel called the *Adelphi*. I did attend and met all sorts of people including one of my current nominators, Rob Hansen, and had an incredibly good time. It was, of course, very strange and overwhelming but there were a lot of nice people, a fabulous hotel, some great books in the dealers' room and some splendid real ales. I loved it to bits. I delved into fandom more and more. I joined an APA called *The Organisation*. I put out a fanzine called *Pips*, and started attending the Leeds fandom monthly meets in a pub called the *Adelphi* which included such remarkably talented folks as D. West, Dave Mooring, Michael Ashley,

Simon Ounsley, Mike Ford, Chris Terran, the Ashworths, and Debra Kerr. We would get regular visits from Ian Sorensen, and TAFF and GUFF delegates often made a point of coming along to see us. They were usually quite lively nights, and a bunch of us also used to meet for a quiz night at a pub called *The Bridge Inn* in Leeds city centre. The other drinkers were furious with us as we won the prize week after week after week. It was most gratifying.

I drifted away from fandom a little then and it was probably Eastercon and the woman who is now my wife that drew me back. I met a Science Fiction Fan (Carrie) who was a member of her university science fiction society and was contemplating running a small convention at Herriot-Watt. Pure grit and determination got her through and she managed to make it happen. She was keen to see other conventions so we started to attend Eastercons together. It was unfortunate that one of these was *2Kon* in Glasgow but she was still keen e'en so. She finished her degree and moved to Cambridge for her doctorate. I followed soon after and we have since immersed ourselves more and more in fandom. We have been involved in ZZ9 Plural Z Alpha, the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Appreciation Society, for many years. We regularly attend several conventions and I have begun publishing my fanzine, *Pips*, once more. Carrie is regularly involved in official newsletters and I am more likely to be burrowing myself away producing my own guerilla newsletters and podcasts instead. I started reading Nic Farey's publication, *Beam*, and was so impressed by it that I wanted to get more involved. Nic and I talked about it for some time and then I suddenly found that I was a co-editor and was expected to do stuff. He's a tricky one that Nic. I like and enjoy fandom and find it a great place to play. I now want to play a little in North America and need a whole bunch of votes from you guys to get me there. I adore the TAFF ethos and wish to be more involved. Vote for my enthusiasm. Vote for my love of fandom. Vote for me!

Jim Mowatt
jim@umor.co.uk